
Farm Bill Participant

Contract Number

Purpose: This practice will reduce soil erosion from wind and water, increase soil organic matter content, capture and recycle or redistribute nutrients in the soil profile, promote biological nitrogen fixation, increase biodiversity, weed suppression, provide supplemental forage, soil moisture management, reduce particulate emissions into the atmosphere, minimize and reduce soil compaction. Cover crops are typically used to provide ground cover until the permanent vegetation can be established when converting cropland to grass.

I. NRCS will:

- Assist producers with planting cover crops consistent with NRCS Conservation Practice Standards and Specification: Cover Crop Code 340.
- Prepare a strategy to plant cover crops that will support other practices in creating the desired habitat conditions of the lesser prairie-chicken and that meets the Conservation Measures outlined in the Lesser Prairie-Chicken (LPC) Initiative Biological Opinion providing ESA predictability.
 - ☐ Timing of treatment^a (check one);
 - ☐ no restriction
 - ☐ prohibited March 1st – July 15th
 - * if implementation is required during the nesting season select no restrictions*
 - ☐ Evaluate the site's potential for soil erosion
 - ☐ When practicable use more than one species in cover crop
- Provide a copy of the appropriate Job Sheet and plan map for guidance on implementation.
- Identify and plan other supporting conservation practices (Herbaceous Weed Control, etc.) as needed and in accordance with Biological Opinion.
- Certify practice meets standards and implementation specifications.^b

II. Participant will:

- Plant Cover Crop within the time constraints identified above and specified in the Job Sheet provided by NRCS.
- Activities during the breeding and nesting period (March 1 – July 15) will be completed with as little disturbance as possible to adjacent and surround LPC habitat.
- Ensure that machinery associated with the practice is clean and free of vegetative debris prior to use to prevent the spread of invasive plant species.
- Minimize soil and vegetative disturbances during implementation to the extent necessary
- Establish Cover Crops in accordance with Job Sheet and specifications provided by NRCS.
- Notify NRCS upon completion of practice.
- Regularly monitor and control State-listed noxious and invasive plants.

a should a lek be discovered within ½ mile of project area, confer with NRCS personnel prior to implementation.

b any payment will only be processed upon practice certification by NRCS personnel.

Continued on Back

I understand the requirements of the practice, and my questions concerning the practice have been answered. I further understand that a failure to adhere to the above requirements may jeopardize any and all payments and ESA predictabilities provided by the LPCI Biological Opinion.

Participant Signature

Date